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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2011-31

Mesotrione

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Publications
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6604-E2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9
K1A 0K9

Internet: pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra
Facsimile: 613-736-3758
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or 613-736-3799
pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

Canada

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for mesotrione on asparagus, flaxseeds, millet, oats, popcorn grain, rhubarb, sorghum and sugarcane to permit the import and sale of foods containing such residues.

Mesotrione is currently registered in Canada for use on blueberries, corn and cranberries.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodities when mesotrione is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish corresponding import MRLs. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the import MRLs can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Consultation on the proposed import MRLs for mesotrione is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs for mesotrione in Canada in or on food, to be added to the MRLs already legally established, are as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Mesotrione

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Mesotrione	2-[4(methylsulfonyl)-2-nitrobenzoyl]-1,3-cyclohexanedione	0.01	Asparagus, flaxseeds, pearl millet, proso millet, oats, popcorn grain, rhubarb, sorghum, sugarcane

A complete list of all pesticide MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and requesting the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2009-2003.

International Situation and Trade Implications

The proposed Canadian MRLs are the same as corresponding tolerances established in the United States (tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide). Currently, there are no Codex MRLs[2] listed for mesotrione in or on any commodity in the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed import MRLs for mesotrione up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed import MRLs for mesotrione and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

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2 The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.